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Administration intelligence officers brief Reagan, Bush on Iran-Iraq war

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MIDDLEBURG, Va. — Carter Administration intelligence officials gave Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan and running mate George Bush a briefing yesterday on recent developments in the war between Iran and Iraq.

Bush called the discussion "pure intelligence" and said that neither he nor Reagan intended to use the information "as ammunition to criticize President Carter."

CIA director Stansfield Turner and other top intelligence officials spent more than two hours with the candidates at Reagan's rented estate in northern Virginia.

Bush, who headed the CIA during the Administration of former President Gerald R. Ford, said that he was impressed with the information, but that it did not change his general view of the situation in the Mideast nor would it cause him to stop criticizing President Jimmy Carter's general handling of foreign policy.

"I feel better informed about the world. I can't tell you I feel more optimistic about it," said Bush, who spoke to reporters waiting outside.

Bush said that he and Reagan asked several questions about the US hostages in Iran but that there was little discussion on this subject.

Reagan declined to discuss the briefing with reporters, although as he walked Bush to a helicopter, Reagan characterized the session as "most interesting."

"We're just getting information we didn't have before," Reagan said.

Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who occasionally advises Reagan on foreign policy, questioned the importance of the briefing.

Kissinger did not attend the briefing, but conferred with Reagan and Bush earlier in the day in a session that also included retired Gen. Alexander Haig, former commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and Adm. Thomas Moorer, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.